



The President's Daily Brief

22 November 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 November 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Page 1 [redacted]
[redacted]
Vietnam. [redacted]
[redacted]
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General Lon Nol [redacted] admits that the program for inducing Khmer Communists to rally to the government has failed so far, but President Lon Nol does not seem ready to consider any different approach. (Page 2)

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Israel's air and artillery strikes in southwest Syria yesterday were stronger than its attacks of two weeks ago. A state of continuous, if limited, warfare could be developing. (Page 3)

Juan Peron has made clear progress in putting together a political coalition during his five days back in Argentina. (Page 4)

In Chile, the major opposition parties are at odds on how to cope with President Allende's bringing military officers into his government. (Page 5)

Unusually large numbers of North Vietnamese civilians have been moving to join the Communist administrative apparatus in the South. (Page 6)

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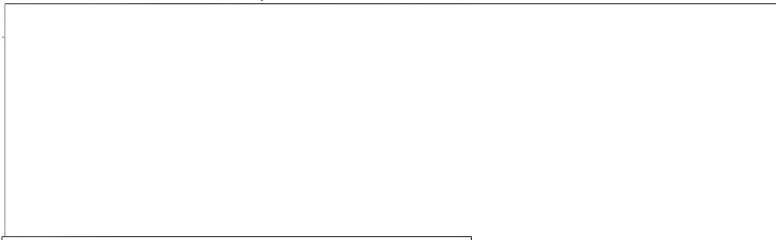
SOUTH VIETNAM



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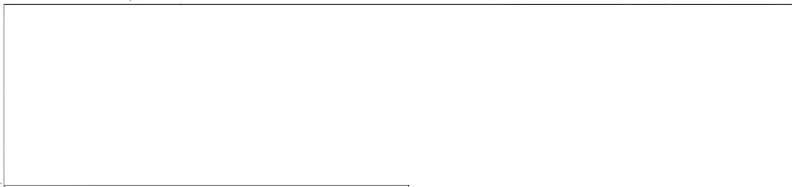
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CAMBODIA

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President Lon Nol's brother Lon Non, the cabinet official responsible for inducing Khmer Communist forces to rally to the government [redacted] admits that so far the program has failed.

A number of prominent Cambodians have criticized the rallier program as unrealistic, and believe that the government should either negotiate with the Khmer Communists or allow them to participate in elections. For the time being, however, Lon Nol does not seem prepared to give serious consideration to such suggestions.

The Khmer Communists are equally intransigent, echoing Sihanouk's line that no political compromise is possible with the Lon Nol government. They also insist that they will not be bound by any ceasefire for Cambodia that might be included in an agreement between Washington and Hanoi.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

The Israeli chief of military intelligence has explained that yesterday's air and artillery strikes in southwest Syria were in response to fedayeen mining incidents and mortar shellings in the Golan Heights on 17 November and earlier yesterday. He said the raids were intended to send a "clear and loud message" to the Syrians to close their borders to the fedayeen. The action was stronger than the Israeli attacks against Syria on 9 November. This time, Israel claims to have downed six Syrian MIG-21s, destroyed 15 tanks, and knocked out a radar facility and several Syrian artillery positions.

These episodes are increasing both in frequency and intensity. If the Syrians remain deaf to the Israeli message, a state of continuous, if limited, warfare could develop similar in some ways to the situation that prevailed along the Suez Canal prior to the cease-fire of 1970.

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ARGENTINA

In the five days Juan Peron has been back in Argentina he has made clear progress toward putting together a political coalition. He has still to secure the cooperation of the large Radical Party. Nevertheless, Radical leader Ricardo Balbin seems interested in reaching a working agreement with him that will also be acceptable to the armed forces.

Peron's hope is that continuation of his early success in bringing a wide spectrum of political leaders into at least preliminary accord will significantly strengthen his hand when he sits down to bargain with President Lanusse.

Lanusse retains the backing of his senior generals and faces no immediate threat of military action against him. Nonetheless, doubts among military officers about his handling of Peron's return could make it more difficult for him to accept the political compromises which Peron's strength may require if Lanusse is to achieve his aim of bringing the country to peaceful national elections next March.

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CHILE

The major opposition parties now agree that President Allende's inclusion of three military officers in his cabinet strengthens his government, but are at odds on what to do about it.

National Party leaders consider that Interior Minister Prats is lending his support to the Popular Unity program for socializing Chile. Since Allende is proceeding by constitutional means, they are unimpressed by Prats' assurances that he will not permit illegal actions by either side. The National Party wants to bring impeachment charges against a Communist cabinet minister in order to force Prats to define his position. By tradition the Interior Ministry defends accused ministers.

The more cautious Christian Democrats fear this would only push the military into closer identification with the government. They also view National Party - inspired press criticism of the military ministers as counterproductive, even though some fear the expansion of the military role in government.

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NOTES

Vietnam: Recent intercepts show an unusually large number of North Vietnamese civilians moving south to strengthen the Communist administrative apparatus in South Vietnam. Since early this year nearly 100 groups involving as many as 2,000 civilian administrators have been detected. Other groups may have transited the pipeline undetected. Approximately half of these infiltrators are destined for the coastal areas of central South Vietnam. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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USSR - Indian Ocean: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Jamaica-Cuba: Jamaica's Prime Minister Manley told Ambassador De Roulet on Monday that he had changed his mind and has now "abandoned all thought of recognizing Cuba for the time being." He added that he would try to persuade the prime ministers of Trinidad-Tobago and Barbados also to hold off. Guyana's Prime Minister Burnham, who had wanted the four Caribbean Commonwealth states to make the move toward Cuba jointly, is evidently continuing talks with the Cubans.

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